

## Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 PC-01 SCCT-01 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 /082 W

----- 127950

R 110822Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4830

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6892

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA

REF: ADDIS 6763 AND 6766 (NOTAL)

1. PC DIRECTOR HAS SHARED WITH US INFORMATION WHICH REACHED HIM JUNE 9 AND 10 FROM PC VOLUNTEERS TRANSITING ADDIS ABABA. FACT FOLLOWING IS SOURCED TO PEACE CORPS SHOULD NOT BE REVEALED FOR OBVIOUS REASONS. WHILE EMBASSY CANNOT VOUCH FOR ACCURACY OF INCIDENTS DESCRIBED BELOW, THESE REPORTS ARE REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF THOSE FLOODING IN UPON US. THEY ARE TRANSMITTED TO SHED ADDITIONAL LIGHT UPON THE CONTENTS OF THE REFERENCED TELEGRAMS.

A) ACCORDING TO TWO VOLUNTEERS WHO RETURNED FROM A FORTNIGHT TRIP THROUGH SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA (MAY 22-JUNE 8), THEIR ETHIOPIAN WATER RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION VEHICLE WAS STOPPED "BY 900 ARMED ANGRY PEOPLE" IN THE AREA OF BIRBIR NORTH OF ARBA MINCH. PEOPLE WERE CHECKING FOR GUJI TRIBESMEN, SOME OF WHOM HAD INVADDED LOCALITY  
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AND "CASTRATED PEOPLE." HAVING ASCERTAINED THAT THERE WERE NO

GUJIS IN THEIR VEHICLE, VOLUNTEERS WERE ALLOWED TO PROCEED.

VOLUNTEERS WERE TOLD IN ARBA MINCH THAT GUJIS HAD COME INTO OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN, WHERE THEY HAD ATTACKED TWO MALES IN A FAMILY BEFORE WITHDRAWING.

B) EIGHTY KILOMETERS SOUTH OF ARBA MINCH VOLUNTEERS REPORTED THAT BORANAS WERE FIGHTING WITH KONSOS SOUTH OF GIDOLI.

C) VOLUNTEERS REPORTED HIGH DEGREE OF TENSION IN COLITO, WEST OF SHASHEMANE, WHERE "ALL ZEMATCHOCH ARE ARMED WITH SPEARS AND THEIR LEADERS WITH RIFLES." TENSION APPARENTLY ROOTED IN STUDENTS' ATTEMPT PUT LOCAL TRADITIONAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS OUT OF BUSINESS.

D) VOLUNTEERS STATED THAT O/A MAY 31 ZEMATCHOCH ATTACKED POLICE STATION IN JINKA (WEST GEMU GOFA), SEIZED POLICE WEAPONS AND DISTRIBUTED THEM TO THE PEASANTS. "THERE WERE MANY CLASHES AND MANY PEOPLE WERE KILLED."

E) ON JUN 7 SAME SOURCES REPORTED "BATTLE" BETWEEN BANDITS AND POLICE AT MEKI SOUTH OF MOJO ON THE MAIN ROAD TO ADDIS. "BATTLE" FORCED THEM TO ABANDON THEIR VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT.

F) DIFFERENT VOLUNTEERS REPORTED THAT ZEMATCH WAS SPEARED TO DEATH "LAST WEEK" SOUTH OF MOJO. BY THEIR ACCOUNT, UNRULY CROWD WAS TEARING UP FENCES AND SHRUBBERY NEAR DEBRE ZEIT HIGH SCHOOL ON JUNE 7, CAUSING LOCALLY RESIDENT FRENCH FAMILY TO PACK UP AND LEAVE. SAME VOLUNTEERS REPORT RECALL LAST WEEK OF COL. TSEGAYE FROM DEBRE ZEIT AIR FORCE ACADEMY AND ADDED THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN THERE SINCE BUT THAT MEN CAME TO PICK UP HIS EFFECTS (THIS CHECKS: CF. USDAO 0436 JUNE 75).

G) PCV WORKING IN OGADEN WITH UNICEF IN HARRAR NORMALLY CALLED UPON TO TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH TO GODE DEEPLY SHAKEN BY GROWING SENSE OF HOSTILITY TO FOREIGNERS IN GENERAL AND AMERICANS SPECIFICALLY WHICH HE DETECTS IN THAT AREA. HE HAS DECLINED TO RETURN TO HIS DUTIES. HE CITES A STUDENT CAMPAIGNER AS TELLING HIM THAT ALL AMERICANS WOULD SOON BE KILLED.

H) A VOLUNTEER REPORTED FROM HARRAR JUNE 10 THAT AT MEDHANE ALEM HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS 26 OUT OF NORMAL 935. REST WERE ON STRIKE.

I) DIFFERENT VOLUNTEERS REPORT HARASSMENT IN BAHR DAR FROM LOCAL POLICE WHO CLAIM THEY MUST REGISTER ONCE A MONTH BECAUSE THEY ARE IN VIOLATION OF IMMIGRATION LAWS.

2. COMMENT: IN CURRENT CLIMATE, UNDERSTANDABLY, DIFFICULTIES  
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WHICH IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE SEEN AS LOCAL OR ROUTINE ARE EASILY PERCEIVED AS DIRECTLY THREATENING BY MANY VOLUNTEERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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